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U-BOAT ATTACKS U. S. WARSHIP

DESTROYER SMITH NEAR TO CANCEL DEBT DESTRUCTION BY TORPEDO; ON MEMORIAL HALL ESCAPES BY THIRTY YARDS D. A. R. Delegates Announce

Only One Hundred Miles South of New York Harbor When Fired on by the Submarine.

ENEMY VESSEL WAS SUBMERGED AND DISAPPEARED IN DARKNESS

Appearance in American Waters May Mark Beginning of Attempt to Blockade United States Ports-Not a Surprise to

Officials of Government.

A German submarine today fired on the destroyer Smith about 100 miles south of New York.

The Navy Department made the following announcement: "Reported from Fire Island lightship to the naval sta-

tions at Boston and New York at 3:30 a.m. on the 17th an enemy submarine was sighted by the U. S. S. Smith, running apparently submerged. Submarine fired a torpedo

at the U. S. S. Smith, which missed her by thirty yards. The wake of the torpedo was plainly seen crossing the bow. Submarine disappeared."

SMITH'S WIRELESS REPORT PICKED UP.

First information of the encounter came to the Navy Department in a roundabout way from the Boston navy yard, which picked up the Smith's report saying she had been fired upon by a German

The Navy Department, after communicating with Fire Island, Boston, New York and some other points on the Atlantic coast, announced that the report of the Smith's encounter had been substantiated by official investigation. northern Canada, from which German

Canada to the continent. Inasmuch as

there has been no evdience of the use

of such bases in more than two years

of war, it is considered unlikely that

even if they exist they can now be

nenace, and is taking more as they be-ome available. Naval officers recognize the danger of submarine operations off American coasts, but are confident of the

navy's ability to deal with them, so far as is possible at this time.

Expert opinion is that some shipping is bound to be lost if the raiding is extensive, but that submarines operating 3,000 miles away from home have most of

e disadvantages to contend with.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

IS PROPOSED IN RUSSIA

Council of Workers, Soldiers and

Others Recommend Basis of Uni-

versal Suffrage.

Petrograd dispatch says the congress

of the council of workers, soldiers and

Voluntary Agricultural Army.

A voluntary agricultural army dur-ing the war is outlined in a bill in-

troduced in the House by Representative McCormick of Illinois. The bill

is based on a plan worked out by the

Raid or German Blockade. U-boats could be supplied to raid the train of troops and supplies going from Whether the presence of the German merely foreshadows a sposuch as the U-53 conducted off the New England coast, or whether it is the signal for the beginning of a general submarine blockade of the Ateneral submarine blockade of the At-antic coast is not yet known.

The attack by the U-boat is Ger-thought into use in Germany's warfare against the United States.

The navy has taken all the measures it now has at hand against the submarine lantic coast is not yet known.

of war declared by the United States. It was stated in Germany soon after the action of Congress that no aggressive steps would be taken against the United States.

Not Taken Seriously. Practica'ly no American officials be-

lieved this statement, however, and steps to meet aggressive moves were at once taken. The probability of submarine attack on unprotected seaboard cities and towns, raids on shipping within sight of American shores and a submarine blockade of the principal Atlantic ports with the purpose of terrorizing shipping and people was ex-

without such a declaration, they point out, Germany will incur great claims of damages to neutrals and will carry on a new campaign without the color of legal authority which she contends the declaration of a barred zone lends to it. By declaring a prohibited zone around any of the American ports and limiting it to those waters, Germany would escape the necessity of declaring and maintaining a general blockade of the Atlantic coast line. When the task of the Union navy during the civil war in maintaining an effective blockade of the southern ports is recalled the difficulties of a submarine blockade of that vast coast line may be estimated. in a roundabout way that Germany was shout to declare a prohibited submarine York, the Delaware capes, Chesapeake bay, Charleston and Savannah. This would have included all the important orts on the Atlantic seaboard. It was said then that an official warn-

Credited by Entente Diplomats.

Some American officials were disinclined to credit the report, but the enit and predicted that Germany would soon carry the submarine campaign to this side of the Atlantic, principally for the purpose of scaring neutral shipping away from American harbors and raid the great squadrons of merchant ships which are moving food and supplies to America's allies on the European battle fronts.

With the horrors of submarine war brought close to the doors of America, the possibility that German U-boats may have bases on this side of the Atlantic is again revived. The raid of

may have bases on this side of the Atlantic is again revived. The raid of
the U-53 and the two trips of the
Deutschland demonstrated that it
possible for a German submarine to
escape the British cordons in the North
sea and make her way to America.
Whether a submersible could make
such a trip and return without having
a supply base somewhere on this side
of the Atlantic is gravely doubted.

of the council of workers, soldiers and
delegates has adopted a report regarding the constituent assembly which
makes the following recommendations:
The assembly shall be convened at
Petrograd as early as possible on the
principle of universal suffrage. The
army snall take part in the elections
like the rest of the population, but the

The possibility of bases having been planted by the German raiders recently at large in the South Atlantic is one of the foremost. It even has been suspected that parts of submarines had been shipped to Mexico and assembled there, but by many well informed officials that is doubted.

Is doubted.

The possibility of a German submarine base in the Gulf of Mexico haw, however, long been recognized, and many officials have been convinced that when the raiding began, as they were sure it would soon after the declaration of war, the raiders would come from that cubries. is have been convinced that when iding began, as they were sure it soon after the declaration of the raiders would ceme from that etc.

Bumors of Other Bases.

The also have been many reports of bases established on the rocky naccessible coasts of Maine and speed on a plan worked out by the University of Illinois, and approved by the conference of agricultural experts one of missing age, but unfit for army service, and boys over fourties, if fit for farm labor. They would serve both on private farms and government-operated farms.

Donations Sufficient to Pay Remaining \$15,000.

REPORT ON MANAGEMENT

on Memorial Continental Hall were the main incidents of this afternoon's ses-Society of the D. A. R. While the total mount of donations is not yet summed up, there is no doubt in the minds of he officials that it will cancel the in-

After the first payment there remained \$185,000 due, obligated for during the administrations of Mrs. Don-

ing the administrations of Mrs. Donald McLean. In seven years the debt was reduced to \$125,000.

In the following three years, during the administration of Mrs. William Cumming Story, \$100,000 was paid off. Another \$10,000 has gone toward canceling the debt the past year, leaving three bonds of \$5,000 each.

The president general, Mrs. Story, made her report this morning as chairman of the national board of management. She told of the purchase of adjoning land to avoid bad neighbors for Continental Hall; of the condition of the debt on the hall, and also advocated strongly the continuance of the Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine.

Report of Management.

The president general, reporting a hairman of the national board of management, told of improvements in efficiency methods during her incumbency. Waste of time has been eliminated and business facilitated. She reviewed the status of the debt on Memorial Conti-nental Hall and described the transac-tion by which adjoining land was ac-quired at a low price, to avoid unde-sirable neighbors, and at a cost that can be paid easily from the regular revenues.

can be paid easily from the regular revenues.

"As you are well aware," she continued, "during the administration of Mrs. Donald McLean, in order to finish the building of Memorial Continental Hall, a loan was made which left a debt upon the hall of \$185,000. During the seven years following this debt was decreased by payment of \$60,000, so that the opening of this administration found the debt \$125,000. In three, years, through the generous efforts of our members, the debt was reduced \$100,000, and since that time, and very largely due to the efforts of Miss Alice Louise McDuffee, our members have further reduced the debt, so that today we owe \$15,000."

Magazine Proves Worth

Regarding the D. A. R. magazine, Mrs. Story said it was impossible to measure the great educational value of placing it in the hands of 96,000 members.

valuable historic and genealogical data, such inspiration to patriotism as our magazine gives forthand as a medium of communication, especially at this time of national upheavai, when concerted efforts on the part of our members are needed for our country's good—we should be doing a definite and distinct wrong to fail to send this monthly magazine to all our

May Have Declared Zone.

Some officials are inclined to believe that the lack of a declaration of a prohibited zone in American waters may be due to the crippled condition of communications with Germany since the United States entered the war. Without such a declaration, they point out, Germany will incur great claims of the matical states and this monthly magazine to all our members."

In view of the heavy expense of the initial months of the large issue, she continued, it was necessary to make special arrangements to finance the undertaking. The national board of management voted to make a loan sufficient to meet the expense—\$25,000—with the note of the national society as security. She anticipated that the future would justify the continuance of the magazine. the magazine.

Mrs. Story recited the fact that the organization has sent \$149,000 for the relief of Belgians.

Appeal for Donations.

Mrs. Story, as chairman of the committee on Continental Hall, at the aft. ernoon session made the appeal for donations from members to cancel the fifteen-thousand-dollar debt. Response was prompt and generous.

as chairman of the committee for the D. A. R. Magazine. Mrs. Amos G. Draper reported as editor of the magazine. The fate of the magazine will be decided during the afternoon.

That each member procure and wear a small American flag was the sense of a resolution offered by Mrs. Howard H. McCall, state regent of Georgia, in the name of the Georgia delegation. The resolution was adopted without dissent. In receiving the resolution, Mrs. Story ruled that patriotic resolutions are always in order.

Mrs. Betty Carter Smoot of Alexandria, Va., organization secretary general, reported the organization work. She told of a notable increase in the number of members and chapters of the D. A. R. as chairman of the committee for the

Honor for Mrs. Lockwood.

Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood received th The assembly shall be convened at signal honor of Petrograd as early as possible on the chaplain general for life. Mrs. Willfam principle of universal suffrage. The C. Boyle made the nomination, and it was army snall take part in the elections indorsed by a rising vote. Mrs. Lock like the rest of the population, but the wood is a resident of the District of Co-

To Make Nominations Tonight.

Tonight's session will be given over o nominations for the officers of the national society. Besides the genera dents general and one honorary president general. Four of the vice presidents general are to be elected for one year and seven for three years.

The tickets of the candidates have been announced. Only Mrs. Squirer runs alone, she says in an announce ment.

Mrs. George C. Squires, independen candidate, has no ticket. Whomever the

(Continued on Second, Page.)



REPORT OF ARRIVAL

State Department Not Informed of Landing of British War Commissioners.

ore to be conducted separately will not retard the discussions of cooperation between the United States and the allies.

American officials representing the executive branch of the government, the army and the navy, have completed their preparations for receiving and looking after the welfare of the commissioners while they are in Wash

Have Not Yet Arrived.

Official announcement was made at he State Department that "so far as the department's information was concerned the British commission, headed by Foreign Secretary Balfour, had not the contrary were utterly false and made from whole cloth."

Added to this announcement was statement that after the commission arrives here and the conferences between the British and American officials begin, no part of the discussions will be The latter statement, however, ap-

peared to reflect only the attitude of furniture and fittings were ruined by publicity had not been decided upon.

the Spee Club, a Harvard college club building on Holyoke street, early toference was a matter of tremendous day. The loss is estimated at \$40,000.

BIG DRIVE FOR MARINE RECRUITS

TO FEATURE THE STAR'S CAMPAIGN

The United States Marine Corps needs 3,000 more

men. Tomorrow night a big "drive" for recruits in this

important service will be staged in front of The Star

building. It will be the fourth of the series of motion

pictures and talks to obtain recruits in the water and land

forces of the United States given under the auspices of

Band on hand to give a concert, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Selections also will be given during the showing of the

motion pictures, scheduled to start at 8 o'clock.

mann, director of the Marine Band.

trated with a number of lantern slides.

Arrangements are made to have the entire Marine

Several vocal selections by a glee club composed of

An appeal for recruits will be voiced by Maj. Henry

marines are to be given. The musical program will be

given under the direction of Lieut. William H. Santel-

W. Carpenter, U. S. M. C., in charge of the Washington

recruiting office for the service. Life in the corps and

something of its activities will be explained by Q. M. Sergt. N. M. Shaw, U. S. M. C., whose talk will be illus-

marine is trained and depicting typical Marine Corps

activities on land and on sea are to be shown. These films also will show scenes in Haiti when marines were landed there during 1915 to quell disorder. These pictures were made under actual fighting conditions.

Several reels of motion pictures showing how the

oublic interest and intimated that some cans would be devised to keep the blic informed.

Secretaries Lansing, Baker and Daniels and George Creel, who comprise the government's new publicity bureau, conferred again today on plans of organization. While some progress was made, it was said numerous details still were to be determined upon and it would be several days before the bureau was fully organized.

Gen. Wood on Committee.

Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, ranking officer of the army, has been designated to represent the military branch of the government on the committee which distinguished British war commiss headed by Foreign Minister Balfour.

PLANS ARE KEPT SECRET

Plans for receiving the British and French war commissions went forward today surrounded by the curtain of official secreey which has been deemed necessary until the commissioners are in the capital.

The indications today were that the French commissioners would arrive later than the British members, but inasmuch as some of the conferences are to be conducted separately this

Col. Crosby Arranging Details.

Col. Spencer Cosby, Corps of Engiarrived in this city under special orders

While in this city they will be domibassador Henry White, on Belmont street near 16th street. Col. Cosby is

ciled in the dwelling of former Amarrived in this country and reports to was recently relieved from a tour of

Harvard College Club Burned. CAMBRIDGE, Mass., April 17.-Costly State Department officials. Other ad- fire, water and smoke when flames ministration officials said plans for swept through the two upper stories of

WILL SUPPLY BOATS FOR U. S. COMMERCE

Shipping Board Fleet Incorporation, Just Formed, Is-Capitalized at \$50,000,000.

HEADED BY GEN. GOETHALS

The United States Shipping Board ing the enemy's position. Emergency Fleet Corporation was tion, equipment, lease, charter, mainte-States.

as trustees for the first year, are: George W. Goethals, 43 Exchange place, New to report to the Secretary of State and arrange the details of the plans for the reception of the French delegation. The delegation is headed by M. Viviani, vice president of the French council, and includes in its membership Gen. Joffre, hero of the Marne.

While in this city under special orders

W. Goethals, 43 Exchange place, New York city; William Denman, 1020 Merchants' Exchange building, San Francisco, Cal; John A. Donald, 18 Broadway, New York city; William L. Soleau, 1361 Harvard street, Washington; Richard H. Bailey, fr., 1439 Fairmont street, Washington; Timothy C. Abbott, 2023 Park road northwest, and Ellsworth P. Bertholf, 1463 Harvard terrace, Washington.

Powers of the Trustees.

The board of trustees is empowered the only member of the American re- number three members to constitute an much for the Germans and before noon the only member of the American reception committee yet appointed. He was recently relieved from a tour of duty at Paris as an attache of the United States embassy to France. Before he went abroad he was superintendent of public buildings and grounds, and earlier District Engineer Commissioner.

Herward College Ciph Pressed tockholders are to be granted subject o this reservation of right to amend

Record in Capitalization.

for each \$1,000 of capital stock. The in-

NEW YORK RAISES REGIMENT. First State to Do So Since War Began-All Engineers.

New York state has won the honor of first raising a regiment for the regular army after the United States went to war. The organization will be designated the 1st Reserve Engineers, and will b officered almost entirely by men taken from the Engineer Officers' Reserve Corps. Its 1,200 members got their training i public construction work in New York. The reserve officers, already assigned, are Maj. William Barclay Parsons, Maj. Arthur S. Weight, Capt. George H. Gifford, Capt. John Philip Hoge, Capt. Harold Walton Hudson, Capt. John Duer Irving, three first lieutenants and two second lieutenants.

ALLIED BOMBS KILL ELEVEN.

Twenty-Nine Injured by Fliers in Freiburg as Scheme of Reprisals. BERLIN, April 17.-An official an-

GERMAN LOSS 100,000 IN TREMENDOUS BATTLE USHERED IN BY FRENCH

Nivelle's Men, Fighting Furiously, Inflict Terrible Punishment On Teutons Between Soissons and Rheims.

HINDENBURG'S COUNTER ATTACKS FAIL TO REGAIN LOST GROUND

Great Effort of French Made in Face of Twenty Divisions of Enemy in Formidable Positions and Enormous Number of Guns.

One of Greatest Battles in History Progresses on Aisne, Says Berlin

BERLIN, April 17, via London, 5:55 p.m.—"One of the greatest battles of the mighty war, and therefore also in world's history," says the official statement issued today by the German army headquarters staff, "is in progress on the River Aisne."

PARIS, April 17.-Germany suffered another crushing blow upon the western front yesterday, when forty miles of the strongest part of her line were wrested from her with an estimated loss of nearly 100,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. All France hails the victory as a brilliant demonstration of the skill of her generals and the

courage of her troops. The great offensive opened by the gains. The French advance averages in fernch from Soissons to Rheims is depth from two to two and a half miles beyond the German first position, which is composed of lines of five and six or the day after. The tremendous asor the day after. The tremendous assault on the German lines had long been carefully planned and for a month

past French artillery had been pound-The Germans were well aware of chartered today by certificate filed with what was coming, as they showed by Recorder of Deeds Costello. The capital stock is placed at \$50,000,000, dinotably at Sapigneul and Godat farm, vided into 500,000 shares of \$100 each. with the object of finding out some-The corporation is to be perpetual and thing definite in regard to the French guns well supplied with munitions.

French Sweep Forward.

The battle opened on the left of the line, where, shortly after 8 o'clock in forward in an irresistible wave. In spite of a stiff resistance the Germans were driven back, and inside of half an hour prisoners began streaming ground is more level. Here the attack forward in an irresistible wave. In toward the French rear by hundreds. The struggle was hottest east of Loivre as well as in the whole sector of Berryau-Bac and to the east of Craonnelle, by the charter to appoint from its but the French heavy shells were too

Germans Counter Attack. In the afternoon the Germans counter-

attacked with extreme violence almos The incorporation has the largest everywhere along the front. The majority apitalization ever authorized under the of their reserves were engaged south and District law since the enactment of the east of the Brimont ridge. It is from the Brimont fort, built on a crest which dominates all the plain around, that the Germans have bombarded the city of Rheims. The French troops are now to prove close to this ridge, which is likely to play a prominent part in the coming fighting. In capturing Loivre they have drawn nearer to Bermericourt and have gone far beyond the famous position which they lost in the first weeks of the war and failed to win back at the battle of the Marne.

According to the latest news reaching Paris, the Germans are bombarding the lost trenches furiously, counter attack after counter attack having been delivered far into the night.

The struggle is particularly flerce in the region of Craonne, but the French have so far managed to hold their ode amendment fixing a tax of 40 cents the Brimont fort, built on a crest which

Measured by the amount of territory the Somme offensive, which opened a month ago, but, viewed from the emy's armed forces and the damage to his military prestige, it is a far greater success. Here there can be no question is formed for the purchase, construc- preparation. The invaders had manned either of a previous planned retreat or naturally formidable positions with ef- a surprise. The enemy expected an atnance and operation of merchant ves- fectives amounting to at least twenty tack and made every preparation to de-

feat it. From Soissons to Craonne the German line runs along a series of hills of an average height of 500 feet, with deep valleys between. The attackers advanced up the valleys under a cross fire from each flank, but the artillery curtain on a rear plan invented by the morning, the French infantry swept British general, was so effective that made more progress, and the danger of a rupture of the line became so imminent that the Germans brought in all nent that the Germans brought in all available reserves. The reserves were smashed by the French field artillery, which kept close on the heels of the waves of infantry.

The result of yesterday's operations is

that the great western battle has no joined along a front of close to 1 miles, more than one-third of the mighty line from Switzerland to the French Official Report.

The official statement of today fol-

"North and south of the Oise there was intermittent artillery fighting. Our patrols brought back prisoners.

"Between Soissons and Rheims our "Between Soissons and Kheims our troops are organizing the positions cap-tured. In the region of Ailles a strong German counter attack on our new lines was broken up by our artillery and ma-chine gun fire, which inflicted severe

front.

"In the Champagne the night was marked by more artillery fighting west of Auberive. Everywhere else the night was calm.
"In the period between April 10 and 15 our pilots accomplished numerous exploits. Capt. Lecourt, Capt. Grandmalson, Sublieut. Languedoc and Sergt. Rousseau brought down each his fifth German machine. Lieut. Pinsart accounted for three enemy airplanes,

WAR'S GREAT TEST AT HAND: BRITISH ADVANCE FURTHER

LONDON, April 17.-The British made further advance in the neighborhood of Epehy last night, according to an offic'al statement issued by the war office Rainstorms are hampering operations. "Since the morning of April 9," says the official report from British headquarters in France last night, "we have taken over 14,000 prisoners. The captured

material includes 194 guns."

have been precisely allotted along the wide-reaching battle lines. French Gain Confidence. It was planned that the British should

guns were still roaring their preparation for infantry hostilities along a wide front farther to the south. The successes gained in the first stages of the British advance have given the French great confidence in the inaugu-

material includes 194 guns.

Supreme Test at Hand.

Supreme Test at Hand.

Supreme Test at Hand.

Supreme Test at Hand.

(Staff Correspordent of the Associated Press.)

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN

FRANCE, April 16, via London.—The hot
flames of war are raging over the entire
attacks on British admirated flagrant contravention of The
freed and flagrant contravention of The
Hague convention, a large squadron of
British and French airplanes carried
out a reprisal bombardment of the town
of Freiburg Saturday. Many bombs
were dropped with good results.

"Despite a large number of air fights
with hostile airplanes, all our machines

"The whole struggle in the western
theater promises to be a titanic one.
The allies are prepared as never before
both in material and personnel, and are
co-operating with a smoothness which
comes from a complete understanding
and thorough appreciation of the work
in hand. The Germans have more divisions on the western front than would
and however much of an "easterner"
Field Marshal von Hindenburg may
already attained justify the conclusion
that the supreme military test of the
war is near at hand.

The part to be played by each belligerent has been arranged as for
Already a half score of Germany's
best divisions have been smashed to
places by the British onslaught and
schedule has been arranged as for

Already a half score of Germany's
best divisions have been smashed to
places by the British onslaught and

Believe in Mother Ship.

Many officials here always have believed that the U-53 had another ship somewhere down on the horizon. The possibility that merchant submarines of the Deustchland type, now converted to carriers of fuel oil and supplies, might accompany flotillas of the war boats on their transatlantic raids is recognized as being ever present.

The possibility of bases having been planted by the German raiders recently at large in the South Atlantic is one of the foregoest.

Ilike the rest of the population, but the active army shall vote separately, wood is a resident of the District of Columbia. She made her report as chaplain general of the national society this morning and was loudly applauded.

Mrs. W. C. Boyle, recording secretary general; Mrs. Delos A. Blodgett, shall fix the political regime of Russia and her fundamental laws.

The report also provides that after constitutional questions are settled the assembly shall take up agrarian problems and draft new laws on matters of labor, questions of nationality, organization of local self-government and all questions of an international character.